GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:447
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
QUACKS DUPING PEOPLE
Pathak Shri Harin

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that quacks dupe the people by giving misleading advertisement of guaranteed treatment of various diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to put a check on such quacks?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 447 FOR 27TH APRIL, 2005

The treatment of patients is only permitted by the qualified and Registered Medical Practitioners registered by various Medical Councils in the country constituted under the relevant laws for registration of medical practitioners qualified in various disciplines of medicines like Allopathy, Dental Sciences, Homoeopathy, Ayurveda, etc. The practice of medicine by unregistered practitioners is an offence under various Acts pertaining to registration of medical practitioners and action against the offenders is taken by the State Governments under the relevant laws. However, control over misleading advertisements of Drugs and Magic Remedies is exercised by the State Governments under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, under which it is prohibited to take part in publication of misleading advertisements relating to drugs or magic remedies for treatment of certain diseases and disorders.

A proposal to amend the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, is under consideration of the Government with the objective of widening the scope of the Act and making penalties more stringent so as to enable deterrent action against the offenders, including quacks giving misleading advertisements related to various diseases.